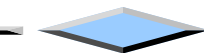


Choices Counseling Center

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Drug Court

“The nudge from the Judge”

Choices Counseling Center has been the exclusive provider for the Josephine County Drug Court since 1996. We have seen over 700 clients and have 180 graduates. Only 17% of the clients have been rearrested. The best statistic of all is for 15 drug free babies.

Knowledge of Addictions: As the founding Director of Choices. I have nearly 30 years in the addictions treatment field in Southern Oregon. I hold state and national certifications in addictions counseling. I have worked in the public and private sectors and provided services in detoxification, residential and outpatient settings. I am myself a recovering methamphetamine and heroin addict. My brother, ex-wife and many others close to me have died as a result of their addictions. I have two daughters that are currently in recovery. One has been to Coffee Creek women’s prison twice and the other was positive for Methamphetamine in the beginning of her pregnancy which warranted a referral to residential treatment. She is a full time student and a great mom now. I am raising my 10 year old grand son because of his mother’s addiction.

Treatment Issues: We have had some significant expectations of our clients in the past. Due to credible research about how Methamphetamine affects the brain we have had to change our expectations in treatment. Clients need lots of help remembering things and they also respond better to short interactive type experiences rather than long didactic type experience. They also do better the longer they have been in treatment. Frequent urine screens, consistent contact with the Judge, probation officers and other support systems.

Legal Justice System: We have known for decades that locking addicts up has not been successful. They tend to return to what they were doing before getting locked up. However, we do need the consequences and pressure from the system to continue to motivate our clients to stay involved long enough to get well. Our Drug Court is so intensely structured and requires so much of the participants that you really need to think twice if you believe it is soft on crime. Our current prison system is very soft on crime in that some people go back because it’s not so bad maybe even better than what they have out here. They do really well in an artificial environment without making any real significant changes.

“Recovery is a process not a event”. Sometimes success in Drug Court is measured by the clean and sober Christmas their children had or the lack of victimization for the period of time they were in the program. I believe that having clients show back up for counseling after they have graduated Drug Court is a measure of success. We have many clients with 5-6 years clean.